

***Hemiorchis rhodorrhachis* K. Schum. (Zingiberaceae), a new record for Thailand**

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ABSTRACT. *Hemiorchis rhodorrhachis*, newly recorded from Mae Hong Son, northern Thailand, is described and illustrated.

The genus *Hemiorchis* was first described by Kurz (1873). The type species, *H. burmanica* Kurz, was based on material from Martaban, Myanmar. Baker (1890), in his treatment of Zingiberaceae for the Flora of British India, included this species and extended its range to the KhT Kurz, was based on material from Martaban, Myanmar. Baker (1890), in his treatment of Zingiberaceae for the Flora of British India, included this species and extended its range to the new species, *H. rhodorrhachis* K. Schum. A third species, *H. pantlingii* King, was described from Sikkim, northern India.

Recently, the second author discovered the genus in the Mae Hong Son of northern Thailand. The collection matches, in all essential characters, *H. rhodorrhachis* although there are some minor deviations in colour pattern. Only the inflorescence was found, which is produced before the leafy shoots develop. In the description below the vegetative characters and the characters of capsule and seeds are taken from the protologue while the inflorescence and floral structures are based on the Thai material.

HEMIORCHIS

Kurz, J. As. Soc. Beng. 42: 108. 1873; Benth. & Hook.f., Gen. 3: 641. 1884; Baker, Curtis Bot. Mag. 116: t. 7120. 1890; in Hook.f., Fl. Br. Ind. 6: 207. 1890; O.G. Peters in Engl., Nat. Pflanzenfam. 2, 6: 30. 1889; K. Schum. in Engl., Pflanzenr. 4(46), 20 Heft: 127. 1904; Loesener in Engl., Nat. Pflanzenfam. 2. ed. 15a: 581. 1930; Larsen et al. in Kubitzki, Fam. Gen. Vasc. Pl. 4: 288. 1998.

Small, herbs with fleshy rhizomes. *Inflorescence* produced before the leaves. *Leaves* eligulate, lamina tapering into the petiole. *Inflorescence* short, spicate, bracteate or ebracteate, at base with few sheaths, if bracteate each bract subtending 1 flower. *Flowers*: calyx tubular; corolla tube about the same length as the calyx; posterior corolla lobes cucullate, the lateral ones flat; staminodes petaloid, obovate to suborbicular; labellum ovate, emarginate; filament short, not exceeding the petals, forward curved; anther

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erect without crest; nectaries 2, cylindric, attenuate. *Ovary* ellipsoid, unilocular with numerous ovules. *Capsule* spherical to spindle-shaped with numerous, angular; seeds shortly arillate.

Three species from India (Central to Eastern Himalaya) to Myanmar. One species in Thailand.

Hemiorchis rhodorrhachis K. Schum. in Engl., Pflanzenr. 4(46), 20 Heft: 128, f. 17e. 1904; Loesener in Engl., Nat. Pflanzenfam. 2. ed. 15a: 581. 1930.— *H. burmanica* auct. non Kurz; Baker in Hook.f., Fl. Br. Ind. 6: 207. 1890. Type: India, *Mann* s.n. (holotype K). Figs. 1–2.

Small herb. *Leafy shoot* with 5–6 sheaths at base, the lower pale, the upper green with purple margin. *Leaves* shortly petiolate; lamina oblong to oblong-lanceolate, tapering towards the petiole; upper surface green, lower pale green, up to 20 by 6 cm. *Flowering shoot* up to 16 cm; peduncle and rachis densely velutinous; spike ca. 6 cm. *Flowers* ebracteate: calyx 6–7 mm long, tubular, 3-lobed, the lobes acute; corolla tube ± as long as calyx; posterior corolla lobe 11–12 by 4–5 mm, cucullate, apiculate; lateral lobe slightly shorter, flat; lateral staminodes broadly triangular, ca. 9 by 6 cm, yellowish; labellum yellowish with purple dots, short, obovate, emarginate with a fleshy, raised midvein, ca. 7 by 5 cm; filament ca. 4 mm long; anther ca. 4 mm long, erect, thecae diverging towards apex, opening by longitudinal slits. *Ovary* sessile, velutinous, ellipsoid, ca. 15 mm long. *Capsule* globose, crowned by the persistent calyx. *Seeds* conical with a short, white aril.

Thailand.—NORTHERN: Mae Hong Son [Huai Suew Tao-Kun Huai Dae, 1 June 1998, *Pramote* 135 in Liquid Collection (AAU, BK)].

Distribution.—North-eastern India.

Ecology.—Mixed evergreen forest and bamboo forest with other Zingiberaceae namely *Gagnepainia godeffroyi*, *Kaempferia* sp. and *Curcuma* sp.

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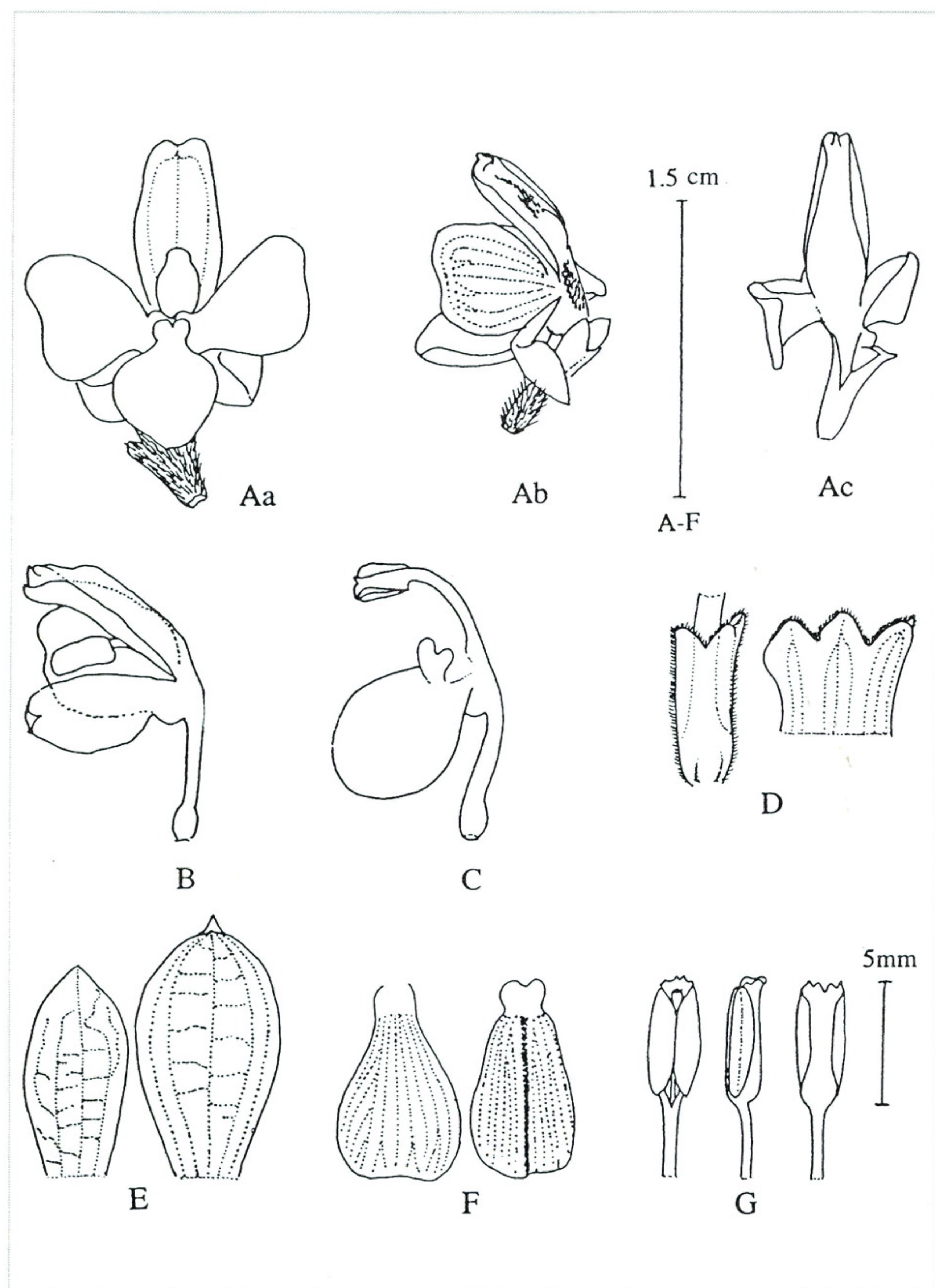


Fig. 1. *Hemiorchis rhodorrhachis* K. Schum.: A. Flower, front, side- and rear view; B. Flower with expanded corolla lobes; C. Position of stamen and labellum; D. Ovary and calyx with expanded calyx; E. lateral and dorsal corolla lobes; F. Lateral staminode and labellum; G. Anther and stigma, front, side- and rear view. All from Pramote 135 (AAU, BK). Drawn by Thaya Jenjittikul.



Fig. 2. *Hemiorchis rhodorrhachis* K. Schum.: Pramote 135 (l.) (AAU, BK).